

Capital: Pierre
Governor: Mike Rounds, R (to Jan. 2011)
Organized as territory: March 2, 1861
Entered Union (rank): Nov. 2, 1889 (40)
Present constitution adopted: 1889
Motto: Under God the people rule
Land area: 75,885 sq mi. (196,542 sq km)
Geographic center: In Hughes Co., 8 mi. NE of Pierre
Number of counties: 66 (64 county governments)
2002 resident population est.: 761,063
Average annual precipitation: 18.29 Inches
Average winter temp: 19F
Average summer temp: 70F
Nicknames: Mount Rushmore State; Coyote State
Origin of name: From the Sioux tribe, meaning "allies"